

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                    1.        A method of consolidating genealogy records, comprising:  
2                    partitioning the records using at least one index file to form one or more  
3 partitions;  
4                    sorting the records in a partition based on a data element in the records;  
5                    comparing records within a sort range;  
6                    based on the comparison, identifying same person records;  
7                    consolidating information in the same person records;  
8                    receiving a request from a user to view at least a portion of the consolidated  
9 information for a particular group of same person records; and  
10                   sending a file comprising the portion to the user.
- 1                    2.        The method of claim 1, wherein partitioning the records using at least  
2 one index file comprises using a surname index to identify records having the same surnames  
3 and grouping those records into a surname partition.
- 1                    3.        The method of claim 2, further comprising using the surname index to  
2 identify records having similar surnames and grouping those records into the surname  
3 partition.
- 1                    4.        The method of claim 3, wherein using the surname index to identify  
2 records having similar surnames comprises using a phonetic algorithm to identify records  
3 having similar surnames.
- 1                    5.        The method of claim 4, wherein the phonetic algorithm comprises  
2 double metaphone.
- 1                    6.        The method of claim 4, wherein the phonetic algorithm comprises  
2 SOUNDEX.
- 1                    7.        The method of claim 1, wherein sorting the records in a partition based  
2 on a data element in the records comprises sorting the records based on birth date.
- 1                    8.        The method of claim 1, wherein sorting the records in a partition based  
2 on a data element in the records comprises sorting the records based on a selection from the  
3 group consisting of name, death data, death place, and birth place.

1                   9.       The method of claim 7, wherein comparing records within a sort range  
2 comprises comparing records within a birth date range.

1                   10.     The method of claim 1, wherein identifying same person records  
2 comprises calculating a score that represents the likelihood that a pair of compared records  
3 represent the same person.

1                   11.     The method of claim 10, further comprising comparing records related  
2 to pairs of same person records.

1                   12.     The method of claim 11, wherein comparing records related to pairs of  
2 same person records comprises revising the score based on the comparison of related records.

1                   13.     The method of claim 12, wherein identifying same person records  
2 comprises comparing the score to a predetermined threshold and rejecting records as “same  
3 person” records if the score is below the threshold.

1                   14.     The method of claim 1, wherein the portion comprises a family tree  
2 based on consolidated information from a plurality of records.

1                   15.     A system for consolidating genealogy records, comprising:  
2 a processor programmed to:  
3 partition the records using at least one index file to form one or more  
4 partitions;  
5 sort the records in a partition based on a data element in the records;  
6 compare records within a sort range;  
7 based on the comparison, identify same person records;  
8 consolidate information in the same person records;  
9 receive a request from a user to view at least a portion of the  
10 consolidated information for a particular group of same person records; and  
11 send a file comprising the portion to the user.

1                   16.     The system of claim 15, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2 to partition the records using at least one index file is further programmed to use a surname  
3 index to identify records having the same surnames and grouping those records into a  
4 surname partition.

1                   17.     The system of claim 16, the processor is further programmed to use the  
2     surname index to identify records having similar surnames and group those records into the  
3     surname partition.

1                   18.     The system of claim 17, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to use the surname index to identify records having similar surnames is further programmed  
3     to use a phonetic algorithm to identify records having similar surnames.

1                   19.     The system of claim 18, wherein the phonetic algorithm comprises  
2     double metaphone.

1                   20.     The system of claim 18, wherein the phonetic algorithm comprises  
2     SOUNDEX.

1                   21.     The system of claim 15, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to sort the records in a partition based on a data element in the records is further programmed  
3     to sort the records based on birth date.

1                   22.     The system of claim 15, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to sort the records in a partition based on a data element in the records is further programmed  
3     to sort the records based on a selection from the group consisting of name, death data, death  
4     place, and birth place.

1                   23.     The system of claim 21, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to compare records within a sort window is further programmed to compare records within a  
3     birth date range.

1                   24.     The system of claim 15, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to identify same person records is further programmed to calculate a score that represents the  
3     likelihood that a pair of compared records represent the same person.

1                   25.     The system of claim 24, further the processor is further programmed to  
2     compare records related to pairs of same person records.

1                   26.     The system of claim 25, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to compare records related to pairs of same person records is further programmed to revise  
3     the score based on the comparison of related records.

1                   27.     The system of claim 26, wherein the processor, in being programmed  
2     to identify same person records is further programmed to compare the score to a  
3     predetermined threshold and reject records as “same person” records if the score is below the  
4     threshold.

1                   28.     The system of claim 15, wherein the portion comprises a family tree  
2     based on consolidated information from a plurality of records.